

Customer No. 24498  
Attorney Docket No. PU030257  
Office Action Date: September 29, 2010

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Inventors :** TOURAPIS, Alexandros, et al.  
**Serial No. :** 10/569,168  
**Filed :** Feb. 22, 2006  
**Title :** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMIZING NUMBER  
OF REFERENCE PICTURES USED FOR INTER-CODING  
**Examiner :** BAYARD, Emmanuel  
**Art Unit :** 2611  
**Conf. No. :** 1709

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office action mailed September 29, 2010, in the above-identified patent application having a shortened period for response set to expire on December 29, 2010, which period is extended by one month to expire on January 29, 2011 by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicants hereby submit the following Response. Please charge fee for the Petition, and any other fees due in connection with this response, to deposit account 07-0832. Reconsideration of the application in view of the Response is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this paper.

Listing of the Claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, fax # 571-273-8300, Mail Stop: Amendment on:

Date 1-18-11

Fideliz Romero  
Fideliz Romero

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**Amendments to the Drawings**

Applicants submit a replacement drawing sheet 3/4 which includes the amended FIG. 3.

The replacement drawing corrects an obvious error, in particular, the phrase in block 350 "IS

$PMAD_i < T_5$ ?" has been changed to "IS  $PMAD_i > T_5$ ?"